

## Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-11 OPIC-03 OMB-01 DHA-02

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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R 101234Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5596

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USUN NEW YORK 0930

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECPION 1 OF 2 LISBON 0179

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR VIEGA SIMAO

SUMMARY: FORMER PORTUGUESE UN AMBASSADOR VEIGA SIMAO IS REASSURED BY RECENT EVENTS IN PORTUGAL; DISTURBED BY SOME OF THE MORE EXTREME ACTIVITIES BY PORTUGUESE - AMERICANS REGARDING THE AZORES; AND CONCERNED BY GOP'S RECENT BEHAVIOR AT UNGA. VEIGA SIMAO IS NOT OPTIMISTIC OVER FUTURE SPANISH DEVELOPMENTS. END SUMMARY.

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1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF JAN 6 LUNCHEON CON-

VERSATION WITH JOSE VEIGA SIMAO, PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO THE UN FROM MID-1974 TO MID-1975. AS DEPARTMENT AND USUN ARE AWARE, VIEGA SIMAO IS ONE OF PORTUGAL'S OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIVES. MINISTER OF EDUCATION IN CAETANO'S LAST CABINET, HE WAS THE ONLY MINISTERIAL LEVEL OFFICIAL TO RETAIN HIS OFFICE IN "REVOLUTIONARY" PORTUGAL AND WAS VERY CLOSE TO GENERAL SPINOLA\* HE HAS BEEN AND STILL IS CONSIDERED A POTENTIAL CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT, IF DIRECT ELECTIONS ARE ESTABLISHED. INTELLIGENT AND ARTICULATE, HE BROKE PUBLICLY WITH THE COMMUNIST-INFLUENCED GONCALVES GOVERNMENT AND WAS DISMISSED LAST SUMMER AS UN AMBASSADOR. SINCE THEN HE HAS RESIDED IN THE U.S. WHERE HE WORKS WITH PORTUGUESE-AMERICAN GROUPS.

2. AZORES: VEIGA SIMAO WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF VARIOUS PORTUGUESE-AMERICANS WITH REGARD TO THE AZORES. HE IS CLOSE TO THE SITUATION BECAUSE OF HIS CURRENT ASSOCIATION WITH PORTUGUESE ETHNICS. HE SAID THAT PORTUGUESE-AMERICANS OF AZOREAN ORIGIN TEND TO BE NOT ONLY OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION IN PORTUGAL, BUT ALSO OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE AZORES. THEY REACT EMOTIONALLY TO EVENTS. HE CITED JOE FERNANDEZ AS FALLING IN THIS CATEGORY, BUT DID NOT MENTION ANY OTHER NAMES. VEIGA SIMAO STATED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, THE USG HAD ACTED WISELY IN NOT ENCOURAGING AZOREAN SECES- SIONISTS, AND HE WAS AWARE OF THE PRESSURES ON WASHINGTON TO DO SO. VEIGA SIMAO SAID EMPHATICALLY THAT THE USG WOULD BE COMMITTING A SERIOUS MISTAKE IF IT WERE TO SUPPORT SUCH GROUPS. SUCH USG SUPPORT, HE TOLD ME, WOULD ALIENATE MODERATE AND EVEN CONSERVATIVE FORCES IN MAINLAND PORTUGAL. HE DID NOT THINK THE USG WAS SO FOOLISH AS TO "TRADE" THE AZORES FOR PORTUGAL.

3. THE UN: VEIGA SIMAO SAID THAT HE HAD A LARGE MEASURE OF DISCRETION WHILE HE WAS THE GOP AMBASSADOR TO THE UN. LISBON ONLY INSTRUCTED HIM ON ITEMS OF MAJOR INTEREST TO THE GOP. NEVERTHELESS HIS MISSION REFLECTED THE SAME DEEP IDEOLOGICAL SPLITS NOTED IN PORTUGAL. HE DIRECTED OUR ATTENTION TO A MEMBER OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PORTUGUESE MISSION -- LEITE DE FARIA -- WHO HAD TURNED INTO AN ARDENT PRO-COMMUNIST AFTER HAVING HAD A GOOD CAREER UNDER THE SALAZAR/CAETANO REGIME. VEIGA SIMAO SHARED OUR CONCERN WITH SOME OF THE GOP'S VOTES IN THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED UNGA. HE ASCRIBED SUCH VOTES TO VOGUISH THIRD WORLDISM AND THE DESIRE BY LEFTIST PORTUGUESE MILITARY AND CIVILIANS TO CURRY FAVOR WITH THE ARABS FOR ECONOMIC REASONS. VEIGA SIMAO SCOFFED AT

THESE EFFORTS. REGARDING RECENT ACTIVITIES OF USUN, HE AGREED WITH OUR PHILOSOPHY BUT THOUGHT SOME OF OUR TACTICS TENDED TO ISOLATE THE US FROM ITS EUROPEAN SUPPORT.

4. THE AFM: VEIGA SIMAO WAS CRITICAL OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT, ITS PRINCIPAL LEADERS, AND THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY IN GENERAL. IN HIS VIEW, THEAFM HAS BEEN, AND IS, DRIVEN LARGELY BY OPPORTUNISTIC CONCERNS. THEY HAVE NO REAL IDEOLOGY ACCORDING TO VEIGA SIMAO, AND COULD JUST AS EASILY BE NAZIS AS ANYTHING ELSE. IN HIS VIEW THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY IS THEIR PROFOUND GUILT FEELINGS AT HAVING FOUGHT AND LOST A VERY NASTY, RACIST COLONIAL WAR. THEY ARE ALL BUSY COVERING THEMSELVES NOW. VEIGA SIMAO RECALLED THE YEARS HE SPENT IN MOZAMBIQUE AS FOUNDER AND RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY. DURING THAT TIME HE KNEW COSTA GOMES QUITE WELL, SINCE THE PRESIDENT THEN COMMANDED PORTUGUESE FORCES IN THE COLONY. VEIGA SIMAO WRONGLY RECALLED THE MANY SPEECHES THAT COSTA GOMES HAD GIVEN DEFENDING PORTUGAL'S COLONIAL EMPIRE, AND CONTRASTED THEM WITH THE PRESIDENT'S CURRENT BEHAVIOR. HE WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF COSTA GOMES, BUT OFFERED NO EXPLANATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S BEHAVIOR.

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINT, PO, (VIEGA SIMAO, JOSE)  
**To:** STATE  
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